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Of Counsel:
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Regional Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue (ORC-DF)
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Via [FOIAonline.gov](https://www.foiaonline.gov)

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request for Permit Nos. TX0074012,
TX0092827, and TX0007587.**

Dear FOIA Officer:

This is a Freedom of Information Act request pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 to the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”). This request is made on behalf of the Port Aransas Conservancy, a non-profit working to foster a balance of conservation and economically sustainable uses for Port Aransas and its surrounding neighborhood and waterways while recognizing that our community and economy is dependent on tourism and fisheries with a healthy barrier island coastal ecosystem. We request a waiver or reduction of any FOIA charges because providing the information primarily benefits the general public.

Request for Information

We would like to request the non-confidential information below for EPA R6 issued NPDES permits for Bryan Mound Oil Storage (Permit No. TX0074012), Big Hills Oil Storage (Permit No. TX0092827), and Chevron Phillips (Permit No. TX0007587):

1. Any and all of the permits;
2. Any and all documentation of EPA evaluations that determined or influenced the permit terms;
3. Any and all comments from TCEQ or other federal agencies on the applications, proposed permits, or draft permits for the permits listed above;
4. Any and all documents and materials providing information on permit limits, including brine discharges and salinity, for the permits listed above; and
5. Any and all documents and materials related to Whole Effluent Toxicity (“WET”) testing requirements contained within the permits, including the EPA’s justification for the limits and WET testing, for the permits listed above.

Please note we do **not request** the applications, correspondence from the applicants, public comments, enforcement documents, or public notices.

If the information exists in an electronic format, please provide it in an electronic format to elena@txenvirolaw.com.

If any of the public information requested in this request once existed but has since been destroyed, disposed of or not retained, please explain the circumstances of that destruction/non-retention and produce a copy of the policy that governs the retention or destruction in question.

Request for Fee Waiver or Reduced Charges

On behalf of the Port Aransas Conservancy, I request that any fees associated with this request to be waived as provided for by the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), which provides:

Documents shall be furnished without any charge or at a charge reduced below the fees established under clause (ii) if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

Disclosure of the requested information will contribute significantly to the public understanding of the EPA's procedures on these projects and permit processes, as well as the public's understanding of the projects and processes themselves and their impact on the natural environment. The request is not in the commercial interest of the Port Aransas Conservancy, a non-profit organization, nor will any financial benefit accrue to Port Aransas Conservancy from the possession or release of the requested information.

The requested information will be useful to informing members of the Port Aransas Conservancy, the Port Aransas community, and Texans in general, about the environmental impacts of the above-referenced projects and EPA's processes. Many in our community rely on the Port Aransas Conservancy to obtain this type of information and make it available to the wider community.

If the fee waiver request is denied, I request that the EPA provide a cost estimate prior to completing this FOIA request.

It is not my intention that this request be unduly burdensome. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions about this request or if I can alter this request in some manner that would make it less burdensome for you.

Thank you kindly for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Elena Solimano
elena@txenvirolaw.com
(281) 414-4632

Cc: Silvia Bogdan, bogdan.silvia@epa.gov